

# County of Los Angeles

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES

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July 16, 2009

**TO:** Each Supervisor

**FROM:** Philip L. Browning, Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'P. Browning', written over the printed name of the Director.

**SUBJECT: REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW MODIFIED CATEGORICAL ELIGIBILITY FOR THE FOOD STAMP PROGRAM UNDER AB 433 (AGENDA ITEM 60-E, MAY 19, 2009)**

This is to provide you with an update on the implementation of the new Modified Categorical Eligibility (MCE) for the Food Stamp (FS) Program. The new policy provides for the waiving of resources and assets for Non-Assistance Food Stamp applicant and participant households with children under the age of 18 who meet all other program requirements.

As you may recall, Assembly Bill (AB) 433 required Counties to implement MCE for recipient households effective July 1, 2009, and to fully implement it for new applicant households by January 1, 2010. I am happy to report that the new policy will be programmed and fully implemented in Los Angeles County, for applicant and participant households by the end of July 2009, but retroactive to July 1, 2009 for recipient households. Households discontinued effective June 30 and July 31, 2009, meeting the MCE criteria, will be identified so that retroactive FS benefits can be issued.

To raise public awareness, we plan to do the following:

- Expand our outreach efforts with our advocate and community partners to heighten the community awareness regarding the FS Program's MCE, as a result of AB 433;
- Expand our outreach efforts through Public Service Announcements;
- Include the new policy regarding MCE on our DPSS website for FS; and
- Develop a fact sheet regarding MCE to share with the Board, FS Outreach Contractors, and other partners.

*"To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service"*

Each Supervisor  
July 16, 2009  
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With this policy change, we anticipate an increase in participation in the FS Program, enabling struggling families to retain savings as a way to cushion against financial uncertainties. The newly-eligible population will, in turn, increase spending at local grocers, thus contributing to boosting the local economy.

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c: Chief Executive Officer  
Acting County Counsel  
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors  
Deputy Chief Executive Officer